United Nations A/HRC/25/NI/13

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Information presented by the Scottish Human Rights Commission *

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Scottish Human Rights Commission**, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with "A"-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

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Annex

[English only]

Information presented by the Scottish Human Rights Commission on the Report of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) notes with appreciation the report of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Commission welcomes the focus on identifying the legal and institutional framework that States have to adopt in order to protect individuals against environmental harm which interferes with the enjoyment of human rights.

As an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate to promote and protect human rights, SHRC is uniquely positioned to hold States accountable, to monitor developments and offer constructive advice and guidance on appropriate measures to support and strengthen environmental policy making at national level.

SHRC welcomes the Special Rapporteur's emphasis on policy making, the connections between substantive and procedural rights, the impact on vulnerable groups and the relationship between human rights obligations and best practices. The Independent Expert's report timely covers the especially pressing environmental chalienges that we face today, including climate change. The Commission recognises the need to integrate these issues into both domestic policy and practice.

To this end, the Commission has led the development of Scotland's first National Action Plan for Human Rights which will help bring about a consistent process for integration of relevant human rights standards in Scotland's climate change policy and practice.

Scotland has taken a number of steps in this area including the creation of a Climate Justice Fund which has supported water projects in Malawi and Zambia, and also what is understood to be the world's first unanimous Parliamentary motion on Climate Justice. This motion recognises the intrinsic linkages between human rights, development and climate change. Scotland's National Action Plan will build on these commitments and ensure that Scotland plays a key role in sharing with other countries its own experience of putting people and human rights at the heart of climate policy.

The Commission looks forward to closely collaborating and providing any further information on these issues to the Independent Expert and the Council.